



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

September 27, 2002

INFORMATION: Justina Ferber – 240-777-7938

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR MERIT SYSTEM PROTECTION BOARD

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 13, 2002

The Montgomery County Council is accepting applications from qualified voters of the County for appointment to a three-year term on the Merit System Protection Board. Generally, the Board is expected to protect the Merit System and to protect employee and applicant rights guaranteed under the County Merit System.

The term of Board member Robert Hamilton will expire in December 2002. Mr. Hamilton has served two terms and is not eligible to serve another term. The appointee must be a Republican, or decline to affiliate with a party, or a member of another party officially recognized by the Board of Elections. By law, no more than two of the three members of the Merit System Protection Board may be of the same political party. Present Board members are Harold Kessler (Democrat), James McDaniel (Democrat), and Robert Hamilton (Republican). Accordingly, the appointee may not be a Democrat.

The County Merit System Protection Board's mission is to oversee the Merit System for the protection of employee's and applicant's rights guaranteed under the Merit System. There are two methods in which the Board processes appeals: 1) a written decision issued after a review and discussion of a written record; 2) a written decision issued after a pre-hearing conference and a formal hearing in cases involving a suspension, demotion or dismissal. The Board, on a periodic basis, conducts special studies, audits or inquiries of the administration of the merit and retirement pay systems and, in this effort, may compel the attendance of witnesses. Written reports of its findings and recommendations are filed with the County Executive and the County Council. The Board also provides comments on any proposed changes in the Merit System law or regulations.

The Board normally meets for approximately four hours in the evening once every two weeks. In addition, the Board holds hearings during the day, which can take the full day or be scheduled for the evening. Additional time is also required for preparatory work. Members of this Board receive \$6,590, which is adjusted annually to reflect 50% of the percentage change in the Washington Area Consumer Price Index.

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The appointment is for three years. Section 403 of the County Charter states in part "...No member shall hold political office or participate in any campaign for any political or public office during the member's term of office."

Individuals interested in serving on the Merit System Protection Board should submit a letter, including a resume, expressing their interest in being considered for appointment to the Board to Council President Steven Silverman, Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Applications must be received in the Council office by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 13, 2002.

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